

Patience in the face of slander

By

Shaykh Ahmad Musa Jibril



Allah subhanahu wa ta'ala in the Qur'an said:

قَدْ نَعْلَمُ إِنَّهُ لَيَحْزُنُكَ الَّذِي يَقُولُونَ فَإِنَّهُمْ لَا يُكَذِّبُونَكَ وَلَكِنَّ
الظَّالِمِينَ بِآيَاتِ اللَّهِ يَجْحَدُونَ

We know that you, [O Muhammad], are saddened by what they say. And indeed, they do not call you untruthful, but it is the verses of Allah that the wrongdoers reject. [al-An'am: 33]

So Allah subhanahu wa ta'ala tells the messenger: *We know what they're saying about you we know what they're talking about* because Allah subhanahu wa ta'ala is telling him because he faced sorrow in his da'wah and Allah subhanahu wa ta'ala said:

قَدْ نَعْلَمُ إِنَّهُ لَيَحْزُنُكَ الَّذِي يَقُولُونَ

We know that you, [O Muhammad], are saddened by what they say.

You're saddened about what they say about you and what they say about your message.

فَإِنَّهُمْ لَا يُكَذِّبُونَكَ

And indeed, they do not call you untruthful.

Allah here is giving him condolence: *It's not about you, O Muhammad ﷺ*. Because if you leave the da'wah to tawheed, nobody is going to mention Muhammad ibn Abd-Allah ﷺ in any negativity. It's about the da'wah of the tawheed and that applies to the messenger ﷺ and all the messengers before him and you as a da'iyah.

وَلَكِنَّ الظَّالِمِينَ بِآيَاتِ اللَّهِ يَجْحَدُونَ

But it is the verses of Allah that the wrongdoers reject.

Allah is saying the same happened to the messengers before you and that's a lesson for us what happened to the prophet Muhammad ﷺ what happened to the messengers before will happen to you as a da'iyah.

وَلَقَدْ كُذِّبَتْ رُسُلٌ مِّن قَبْلِكَ فَصَبَرُوا عَلَىٰ مَا كُذِّبُوا

And certainly were messengers denied before you, but they were patient over [the effects of] denial. [al-An'am: 34]

The same thing, they were disbelieved in and they were patient. You see throughout the Qur'an that the prophet صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم felt sad and he was in sorrow over what they said about him صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم personally and what they said about his message, and this is Rasulallah صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم !

فَلَا تَذْهَبْ نَفْسُكَ عَلَيْهِمْ حَسْرَاتٍ

So do not let yourself perish over them in regret. [Fatir: 8]

فَإِنَّهُمْ لَا يُكَذِّبُونَكَ وَلَٰكِنَّ الظَّالِمِينَ بِآيَاتِ اللَّهِ يَجْحَدُونَ

And indeed, they do not call you untruthful, but it is the verses of Allah that the wrongdoers reject. [al-An'am: 33]

وَأَصْبِرْ وَمَا صَبْرُكَ إِلَّا بِاللَّهِ وَلَا تَحْزَنْ

And be patient, [O Muhammad], and your patience is not but through Allah. And do not grieve. [an-Nahl: 127]

Be patient, don't be sad. Allah subhanahu wa ta'ala is telling the messenger don't be sad over what they're saying about you or your message.

وَأَصْبِرْ عَلَىٰ مَا يَقُولُونَ وَأَهْجُرْهُمْ هَجْرًا جَمِيلًا

And be patient over what they say and avoid them with gracious avoidance. [al-Muzammil: 10]

There's numerous verses throughout the Qur'an that show that the messenger صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم, THE MESSENGER صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم was in sorrow over what they said about him and his message. So yes, it may be normal to be sad sometimes, SOMETIMES, about that which is said, but there's no room to take a detour on this path. This is Rasulallah صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم; the angel Jibreel descended upon him, he received revelation from Allah, water sprung from his fingers, he went to Sidratul-Muntaha, yet

he was saddened over that which was said. That's a lesson for all of us, that you may be sad at times, but there's no room for you to change courses in this path, you remain firm!

Look at disbelievers, some of them have a goal of wealth, some have a goal of fame, some want a political position and at the same time they're willing to endure any hostility or any abuse for the sake of that worldly cause. They're willing to endure it and sometimes they're actually happy about it and there's no room for them in what they do, in the Akhirah. Yet you have a Jannah wider than the heaven and the earth awaiting you, if you're patient on this path. They have nothing and they're patient on it and you as a believer in La ilaaha illa Allah Muhammadur Rasulullah are not patient on what's said about you or those who you love or the pure path of Tawheed that you're on?

Allah subhanahu wa ta'ala ordered us in times like this to have sabr. If you contemplate one verse in the Qur'an about sabr, everything said about you from the day you're born till the day you die will vanish in a glimpse. When you remember and contemplate Allah subhanahu wa ta'ala said:

سَلَامٌ عَلَيْكُمْ بِمَا صَبَرْتُمْ

"Peace be upon you for what you patiently endured." [ar-Ra'd: 24]

Everything said about you, everything that harmed you in this dunya, it vanishes within a millisecond. When you contemplate that verse, when you imagine the angels in Jannah greeting you "salam, come in" why?

بِمَا صَبَرْتُمْ

For what you patiently endured.

Because you had patience. Allah subhanahu wa ta'ala said in the Qur'an, this is the path, it's eminent that this is gonna happen. This is actually the least of what happens in our path:

لَتُبْلَوْنَ فِي أَمْوَالِكُمْ وَأَنْفُسِكُمْ وَلَتَسْمَعَنَّ مِنَ الَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْكِتَابَ مِنْ قَبْلِكُمْ
وَمِنَ الَّذِينَ أَشْرَكُوا أَذًى كَثِيرًا

You will surely be tested in your possessions and in yourselves. And you will surely hear from those who were given the Scripture before you and from those who associate others with Allah much abuse. [Ali-'Imran: 186]

The verse starts with three affirmations:

لَتُبْلَوْنَ

You will surely be tested.

Laam, and a noon and a qasam (oath). Three linguistic affirmations that this is gonna happen. What's going to happen?

لَتُبْلَوْنَ فِي أَمْوَالِكُمْ

You will surely be tested in your possessions.

You're gonna be tested with your wealth.

وَأَنْفُسِكُمْ

And in yourselves.

In your bodies, in your physical beings. Another affirmation, and an important one:

وَلَتَسْمَعَنَّ مِنَ الَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْكِتَابَ مِنْ قَبْلِكُمْ وَمِنَ الَّذِينَ أَشْرَكُوا أَذًى كَثِيرًا

And you will surely hear from those who were given the Scripture before you and from those who associate others with Allah much abuse.

You're going to hear from the people of the book and you're going to hear from the mushrikeen:

أَذَى كَثِيرًا

Much abuse.

Like that is the murji'ah and like that is the munafiqeen and like that is the modernists:

وَلَتَسْمَعَنَّ ... أَذَى كَثِيرًا

And you will surely hear ... much abuse.

So Allah subhanahu wa ta'ala said:

وَإِنْ تَصْبِرُوا وَتَتَّقُوا فَإِنَّ ذَلِكَ مِنْ عَزْمِ الْأُمُورِ

But if you are patient and fear Allah - indeed, that is of the matters [worthy] of determination.

If you're patient and you have taqwa, you're steadfast:

فَإِنَّ ذَلِكَ مِنْ عَزْمِ الْأُمُورِ

Indeed, that is of the matters [worthy] of determination.

It's the mightiest of all matters.

وَلَقَدْ نَعْلَمُ أَنَّكَ يَضِيقُ صَدْرُكَ بِمَا يَقُولُونَ

And We already know that your breast is constrained by what they say. [al-Hijr: 97]

Your heart feels bad. You know what feeling that is? that is you know usually people when they first get into da'wah, especially if they're on the correct manhaj, and they see people talking about them, you get a feeling in your heart you're hurt, that's exactly the feeling that is mentioned in this verse:

وَلَقَدْ نَعْلَمُ أَنَّكَ يَضِيقُ صَدْرُكَ بِمَا يَقُولُونَ

And We already know that your breast is constrained by what they say.

So what's the solution yaa Allah? the previous verse said:

وَإِنْ تَصْبِرُوا وَتَتَّقُوا

But if you are patient and fear Allah.

This one said:

وَلَقَدْ نَعْلَمُ أَنَّكَ يَضِيقُ صَدْرُكَ بِمَا يَقُولُونَ

And We already know that your breast is constrained by what they say.

What's the solution yaa Allah?

فَسَبِّحْ بِحَمْدِ رَبِّكَ وَكُن مِّنَ السَّاجِدِينَ

So exalt [Allah] with praise of your Lord and be of those who prostrate [to Him]. [al-Hijr: 98]

Do tasbih, keep your tongue fresh with the dhikr and duaa of Allah at all times and when you feel bad, you will feel sorrow, head to salah:

وَكُن مِّنَ السَّاجِدِينَ

And be of those who prostrate [to Him].

And explain to Allah subhanahu wa ta'ala what you feel and what you endure. When you stand up out of that sujood, that proper sujood that's mentioned in that verse, you will stand up to the whole world against you. One time a righteous man was asked: he said "you wanna know what people are saying about you?" he said "I don't really care" he said "I'm gonna die and they're gonna die. I'm gonna be questioned before Allah alone and they're gonna be questioned before Allah alone". So the point is to only please Allah subhanahu wa ta'ala because you will never be able to please the creation.